

Testimony before the Appropriations Committee

February 23, 2017

Department of Mental Health and Addiction Services (DMHAS)

**Governor's H.B. 7027 AN ACT CONCERNING THE STATE BUDGET FOR THE
BIENNIUM ENDING JUNE THIRTIETH 2019, AND MAKING APPROPRIATIONS
THEREFORE**

Charles Rush, East Hartford, CT

Good afternoon Senator Osten and Senator Formica, Representative Walker and members of the Appropriations Committee.

My name is Charles Rush and I am a registered voter in East Hartford, CT.

I am here to testify and share my grave concerns of the proposed budget for the Department of Mental Health and Addiction Services.

Since I have been a part of InterCommunity services, I'm currently living life beyond my imagination. I have schizophrenia and Post Traumatic Stress Disorder which has led me to several hospitalizations. I have been on several medications and have had an Alcohol problem that has led me to Jail several times while I was off my medications. InterCommunity has provided me with several services that are vital to my recovery such as peer support, life skills groups, rehabilitative drug and alcohol services, and positive influenced activities.

I'm currently staying in a Sober house that I've been residing at for 7 years and recently had a relapse, if it was not for Intercommunity and other outside services, such as CLRP and RMHB, I would not have 4 months sober now. I have been taking my medications steadily. If you take away the funding for these services, I would find myself isolated and alone. So please don't cut the funding for InterCommunity because it continues to help me with my recovery daily.

Thank you for this opportunity to speak and share my experience with you about what this would mean to me!